

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 OPR-02 /018 W

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R 011135Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3163

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 2271

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FY-75 IV NOMINATIONS, ALTERNATES

REF: VIENTIANE 2020

1. EMBASSY SUBMITS LIST OF THREE ALTERNATE CANDIDATES FOR IV GRANTS NOMINATED BY MISSION NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY COUNTRY TEAM.

2. ALL CANDIDATES SUBMITTED SHOW PROMISE IN RESPECTIVE FIELDS AND CONFORM WITH MISSION COUNTRY AND CU WORLDWIDE OBJECTIVES.

3. ALTERNATE CANDIDATES:

A. MR. SOUBANH SRITHIRATH

POSITION: "CHEF DE CABINET," MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PERSONAL DATA: BORN 1973, KHONG ISLAND, LAOS

CITIZENSHIP: LAO

TRAVEL ABROAD: U.S. 1974 AS MEMBER OF LAO UN DELEGATION, CHINA, USSR, NORTH VIETNAM, CUBA, CANADA, FRANCE (GRADUATE OF ST. CYR MILITARY ACADEMY)

NO PREVIOUS U.S. GRANT

ESCORT SERVICES: WHILE MR. SOUBANH SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL, EMBASSY WOULD ADVISE FRENCH-SPEAKING ESCORT.

VISA ELIGIBILITY: FORESEE NO PROBLEMS.

REASON FOR NOMINATION: MR. SOUBANH IS A MEMBER OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT AND WHILE HE IS UNDOUBTEDLY PRO-COMMUNIST, HE APPEARS TO BE AN INTELLIGENT AND ALREADY INFLUENTIAL YOUNG MEMBER OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE HAS A CLOSE

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WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, PHOUMI

VONGVICHIT OF THE PL. MR. SOUBANH APPEARS RELATIVELY OPEN-MINDED AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A VISIT TO THE U.S. COULD SERVE TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THE MYTHS ABOUT THE U.S. WITH WHICH HE HAS LIVED FOR SO MANY YEARS.
POST OBJECTIVES OF U.S. VISIT: TO PROVIDE HIGH LEVEL PATHET LAO OFFICIAL OF THE LAO COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH AN OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE. VISITOR SHOULD MEET WITH AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS AND SOME AMERICAN OFFICIALS, WITH EMPHASIS POLITICAL LEADERS. HE SHOULD MEET LEADERS IN THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMUNITY AND BE INTRODUCED TO FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL WELFARE SYSTEMS. AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT A UNIVERSITY WITH A SIGNIFICANT ASIAN STUDY PROGRAM WOULD BE USEFUL.

POST ESTIMATE OF NOMINEE'S AVAILABILITY: JUNE, JULY

B. MR. PRICHA TRICHANH

POSITION: OWNER AND MANAGING EDITOR OF THE VIENTIANE POST

PERSONAL DATA: BORN CIRCA 1935 AT VIENTIANE, LAOS

TRAVEL ABROAD: FRANCE 1965-73

NO PREVIOUS U.S. GRANT:

ESCORT SERVICES: FRENCH-SPEAKING INTERPRETER

VISA ELIGIBILITY: FORESEE NO PROBLEMS

REASONS FOR NOMINATION: MR. PRICHA IS THE EDITOR OF ONE OF VIENTIANE'S MOST WIDELY READ LEFT-WING NEWSPAPERS AND FREQUENTLY CRITICAL OF THE UNITED STATES. SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, MR. PRICHA SEEMS TO HAVE GAINED INFLUENCE WITH PATHET LAO OFFICIALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WHILE MR. PRICHA IS NOT BELIEVED TO BE A DOCTRINAIRE COMMUNIST, HIS VIEWS HAVE SEEMED TO PARALLEL THOSE OF THE PATHET LAO. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPOSURE TO U.S. INSTITUTIONS MIGHT HAVE A SALUTORY EFFECT UPON SOME OF HIS NARROWLY HELD VIEWS OF THE U.S. AND ITS POLICIES.

POST OBJECTIVES OF U.S. VISIT: TO ACQUAINT THE EDITOR OF ONE OF VIENTIANE'S INFLUENTIAL LEFT-WING NEWSPAPERS WITH THE PLURALISTIC NATURE OF AMERICAN SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY. TO ALLOW FOR IN-DEPTH CONVERSATIONS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS, POLITICAL, TRADE UNION, BUSINESS, ACADEMIC AND STUDENT LEADERS. MOREOVER, TO PERMIT AN OVERVIEW OF THE WORKINGS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.

POST ESTIMATE OF NOMINEE'S AVAILABILITY: JUNE OR JULY

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C. MR. SAMEU MOUNTHALAY

POSITION: DIRECTOR OF LAO GERMAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL, PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF LAO TEACHERS, PRESIDENT OF LAO SOCCER ASSOCIATION.

PERSONAL DATA: BORN JANUARY 8, 1946 AT BAN BO, MUONG

SAYVONG, VIENTIANE

TRAVEL ABROAD: CANADA (STUDY)

NO PREVIOUS U.S. GRANT

ESCORT SERVICES: NONE REQUIRED

VISA ELIGIBILITY: FORESEE NO PROBLEMS

REASON FOR NOMINATION: MR. SAMEU IS VERY ACTIVE POLITICALLY AMONG YOUNG LAO CIVIL SERVANTS AND STUDENTS. HE HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND HAS SHOWN SOME INFLUENCE IN FOMENTING OPPOSITION TO THE VIENTIANE SIDE OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE IS INTELLIGENT AND COULD PROFIT FROM A WELL PLANNED VISIT TO THE U.S.

POST OBJECTIVES OF U.S. VISIT: TO PROVIDE YOUNG AND INTEL- LIGENT LAO EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR AND POLITICAL ACTIV- IST WITH INSIGHTS TO AMERICAN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, TEACHERS' UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, TECHNICAL SCHOOL EDUCA- TION AND AMERICAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS.

POST ESTIMATE OF NOMINEE'S AVAILABILITY: JULY 15

4. POST REQUESTS CABLE RESPONSE ACCEPTABILITY NOMINEES.
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Message Attributes

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